

cause. The cost of this slaughter is staggering, as much as \$25 billion each year.

The drunk driving problem has stirred outrage among citizen groups, which have succeeded in arousing national interest in the problem. In response to these concerns, many States have set up task forces to examine their drunk driving laws. Several States have already enacted amendments to strengthen their laws. To encourage these efforts, I established the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving in April 1982. That Commission successfully completed its work and has prepared a landmark report of its findings.

There is also a generally unrecognized menace in a category akin to the drunken driver: the drugged driver. The drugged driver is also a public hazard, perhaps less recognized because the cause of the individual's behavior may be less apparent. The driver who operates a motor vehicle while under the influence of mind-altering drugs also presents a significant danger on the roads. The problem of the drugged driver is growing, and the American people must become more aware of this added threat.

In recognition of the threat that drunken and drugged drivers pose to the safety of our citizens, to heighten public awareness of the societal costs of such drivers, and to encourage and support efforts to decrease traffic fatalities caused by drunken and drugged drivers, the Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 119 (Public Law 98-103), has designated the week of December 11, 1983, through December 17, 1983, as "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that week.

97 Stat. 725.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning December 11, 1983, as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate activities in their homes, offices, schools, and communities. I ask all of us to be mindful of the dangers of driving while drunk or drugged and to use this observance to intensify our efforts to prevent sadness and tragedy from intruding on our joyful holiday season.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

Editorial Note: For the President's remarks of Dec. 13, 1983, on signing Proclamation 5136, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 19, p. 1685).

Proclamation 5137 of December 14, 1983

American Heart Month, 1984

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Diseases of the heart and blood vessels are among the Nation's most important health problems. This year one and one-half million Americans will

suffer a heart attack, and nearly one million people will die from diseases of the heart. The economic drain on our resources in the form of direct medical costs and lost wages and production will exceed \$60 billion.

Since 1948, the United States Public Health Service and a private voluntary organization, the American Heart Association, have joined in a concerted effort to combat cardiovascular diseases. These organizations have channeled their efforts and resources to reduce heart disease through such measures as prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; training of new research workers and clinicians; support for community service programs; and public education.

It is gratifying to note that mortality rates for heart disease and stroke are declining. Deaths from coronary heart disease have declined by more than 25 percent since 1972, while those from stroke have decreased by more than 40 percent. In large part, this favorable trend is the result of more Americans being aware of the personal risk factors for heart disease and adopting healthier life styles by changing their habits in such critical areas as smoking, cholesterol intake, exercise, and in controlling high blood pressure.

At the same time, science and medicine have made great strides in the past few years in technology to diagnose and treat diseases of the heart and blood vessels. The dedicated scientists and clinicians who labor to uncover the hidden causes of heart disease also deserve recognition. Lifesaving technology now in the hands of physicians has brought about more certain diagnoses of these diseases as well as the means to treat heart conditions that in the near past were considered beyond effective treatment.

Recognizing the need for all Americans to help in the continuing battle against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 169b), has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating February as American Heart Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 1984, as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the appropriate officials of all other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and the American people to join with me in reaffirming our commitment to the search for new ways to prevent, detect, and control cardiovascular disease in all of its forms.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of Dec., in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

RONALD REAGAN

Proclamation 5138 of December 14, 1983

National Day of Prayer, 1984

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

In 1787, a then-elderly Benjamin Franklin said to George Washington as he presided over the Constitutional Convention, "I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God